

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121(b)(1)(ii), please **amend** the specification by replacing the following paragraphs, with markings indicating changes:

[0012] The binding device 12 is, for example, similar to that described in the document FR-2.739.788 and family member US-6,017,050, which will be referred to for a detailed description. This device includes, in the illustrated embodiment, a connection mechanism, in the form of a front jaw 16 in which a front bar 18 of the boot 14 is adapted to be locked to enable the attachment of the boot to the ski by means of articulation about the transverse axis of the bar. For this purpose, this binding device 12 enables the boot heel to be lifted from the ski. The device 12 also includes longitudinally, at the rear of the jaw 16, an elastic return mechanism that includes an articulated connecting rod 20 adapted, for example, to hook a rear bar (not shown) arranged under the sole 22 of the boot 14. Finally, in the rear extension of the connecting rod, i.e., rearward of the connecting rod, the binding device 12 also includes an upwardly projecting guiding edge 24, or rib, the profile of which is complementary to a corresponding downwardly facing groove (shown in cross section in FIG. 2) formed in the boot sole.

[0013] According to the invention, the arrangement of the binding device 12 on the ski 10 is such that, ~~[[it is]]~~ arranged transversely on both sides of the position of the binding device 12, ~~of the~~ are portions of the upper surface 26 of the ski that form support surfaces 28 which corresponding support surfaces 30 of the boot sole are adapted to contact directly. As can be seen in the drawings, the support surfaces extend to opposite transverse edges of the upper surface of the ski.

[0017] With respect to a ski having a planar, or flat, upper surface, the shoulders can be made in the form of elevated bosses, or they can result from a recess in the central portion of the ski, this recess thus defining the location of the ski binding device. In either case, as shown in FIG. 3, for example, there is no boot sole-engaging rib projecting within a longitudinal median plane of the ski, the binding device 12 being equipped with a rib 24, for example. The recess, shown in FIG. 3, can be regarded to be an interruption in the upper surface 26 of the ski, leaving boot support surfaces 28 on either side of the interruption.